

## CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas. Because you can't see, taste or smell it, carbon monoxide can kill you before you know it's there.

Everyone is at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. Some individuals are more vulnerable to poisoning such as unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems.

The great danger of carbon monoxide is, it's attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream, which normally carries oxygen to the cells and tissues. When even small amounts of CO are breathed in, it attaches to the hemoglobin in the blood 200 times greater than oxygen. When it's in the blood it forms a toxic compound known as carboxyhemoglobin which causes symptoms similar to the flu, such as headaches, fatigue, dizzy, confusion and irritability. As levels of COHB increase you have loss of consciousness, brain damage or death can result.

CO is a by product of combustion. Present whenever fossil fuels are burned. It can be produced by malfunctioning or unvented home appliances such as gas or oil furnaces, clothes dryers, ranges/ovens, water heaters, space heaters, wood burning stoves/fireplaces. Exhaust from an automobile contains high levels of CO.

As winter approaches, CO becomes more prevalent do to closing up our homes to keep them warm. Flues and chimneys can reverse direction or become blocked and trap CO in the home.

To protect you and your family install carbon monoxide detectors in your home outside each sleeping room and in bedrooms that contain a fuel burning appliance or over a garage. If an appliance is causing concern have a technician check it.

Any Emerson resident, thinks there's CO in the home call the Emerson Police at 911 at once. If you require additional information call Emerson Fire Prevention at 201-262-6086 ext. 1215.

# Potential Carbon Monoxide Sources in the Home

